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| **What We Know** | **What We Wanted to Know** | **What We Learned** |
| Mining is an industry that goes back hundreds of years ago and coal mining is the oldest mining industry there is.  Manganese and phosphate are important minerals needed by organisms for optimum functioning.  The mining industry has some detrimental effects on the environment and, consequently, on man. | The different methods of mining, and the recent innovations made to improve the production rate.  Which mining industry is economically beneficial and which one has the most detrimental effects on man and his environment.  How to compare the different minerals as to their mining viability and their economic/market value. | Coal may be very important as a major source of fuel for electricity, but its detrimental effects outweighs its economic benefits.  Manganese is not only an important mineral needed by our body, but its ore and other chemical form is an important component in steel and battery production.  Phosphate is a vital component of fertilizers, although its mining industry is not as economically profitable as the other two minerals. |